

The **Maine South Orchestra Program** is under the direction of Mrs. Rebecca Pascal Oppenheim. Maine South Orchestra Program and the Fine Arts Department has had the prestigious honor of being named a Grammy Signature School and a Creative Ticket Award Recipient for the Illinois Arts Alliance. Maine South Orchestra students have had the opportunity to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra National Clinic, Illinois Music Educators Convention, and performed with violinist Midori in concert. The Orchestra will be going on Tour to New York City in November where en route they will stop for a clinic at Oberlin Conservatory. In New York will work with Virginia Allen (Conducting Professor and Julliard and Curtis Institute), perform with Christy Faber who is currently in the Broadway Cast of *Les Misérables*, tour Julliard, work with members of the New York Philharmonic and meet with Brad Haak, the music director of *Mary Poppins* on Broadway.

The program consists of five orchestras—Beginning Strings, String Orchestra, Symphony B, Symphony A, and Chamber Orchestra. Furthermore, the program maintains a very active chamber music program where students have had the opportunity of working with members of the Chicago Symphony, Turtle Island String Quartet, Northwestern University Professors, and the Avalon String Quartet. Students in the Maine South Orchestra program are members of the IMEA Honors Orchestra, Midwest Young Artists, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Metropolis Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chicago's Irish Music Academy Ensemble, National Youth Symphony Orchestra (Pinchas Zukerman). Students have qualified for the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition and Walgreens Concerto Competition Furthermore, through the generous support of the Maine South High School Music Boosters, Dr. Nancy Whitaker (Director of Fine Arts), Mr. David Claypool (Principal), Mr. Joel Matter (Band Director), Mr. Michael Boyle (Guitar Director), Mrs. Ann Espel (Choral Director) and many incredibly talented private teachers our students have the opportunity to work with a faculty of outstanding professional musicians.

The orchestra has had clinics with: Constantine Kitsopoulos (Detroit Symphony Guest Conductor & *Les Misérables* on Broadway), Robert Hasty (Northwestern University), Timothy Weiss (Oberlin Conservatory), Blair Milton (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Brant Taylor (Chicago Symphony), Louis Bergonzi (University of Illinois), The Avalon String Quartet (Julliard/Northern Illinois University), Edgar Muenzer (Park Ridge Civic Orchestra) and Brett Mitchell (Northern Illinois University).

Those attending Maine South High School come from Lincoln Middle School, Emerson Middle Schools and St. Andrews School under the outstanding direction of Mrs. Natalie Jacobson, Mr. Dallas Klytta and Mr. Andrei Pricope. We hope to continue to grow and instill the love of string playing for years to come.